Recognition of Mahatma Gandhi University at Kottayam in Kerala

2885. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether University Grants Commission propose to recognise Mahatma Gandhi University at Kottayam in Kerala; if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government are aware that the Mahatma Gandhi University Act was amended recently by Kerala Government and whether the amended Act conforms to U.G.C. norms and conditions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI) : (a) The Mahatma Gandhi University, formerly named as Gandhiji University was declared fit by the UGC to receive Central assistance subject to the condition that any grant for its institutional development will be provided only after the Act of the University is amended in accordance with the suggestion made by the UGC, and information is made available about the filling of faculty positions according to UGC norms and completion of academic and other buildings.

(b) The UGC has not so far received the amendments to the Act of the University.

Renaming of Kerala Express

2886. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the name of Kerala Express is going to be changed, if so, what is the proposed new name and the reasons for changing the name;

(b) whether there will be any changes in the number of bogies; and

(c) what is the number of passengers that can be accommodated in all the classes of 125|126, Kerala Express ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to rename the train as Kerala-Mangla Express after the areas it serves.

(b) The train is already running with 21 coaches.

(c) 160 upper class and 1070 Second class passengers can be cleared in each trip.

Additional Trains for Kerala from Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta

2887. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of additional trains that will be put into service to Kerala from Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta during the ensuing summer season; and

(b) what is the number of passengers that can be accommodated in all these trains and the details of the trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) While clearance of traffic between Delhi and Kerala has been improved by increasing the frequency of Kerala Express, regular trains have been introduced from Bombay and Calcutta to Kerala. Hence no Summer Special are proposed to be run on these routes.

(b) Does not arise.

Parcel Counters in New Delhi Railway Station

2888. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of counters for the parcels coming from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala at the delivery office of New Delhi Railway Station parcel office;

(b) which of the counters is dealing with more customers; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to minimise the rush at the parcel delivery counters dealing with Madras and Kerala in view of the heavier pressure on this counter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Out of 5 parcel delivery counters at New Delhi Railway Station, one is earmarked for delivery of parcels received from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala, and work load is the heaviest at this counter.

(c) Additional counter will be opened as soon as extra staff are available.

Superfast Train between Trivandrum and Howrah

2889. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce a superfast passenger train between Trivandrum and Howrah; and

(b) if so, by when and the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Three pairs of express trains, including one between Trivandrum-Howrah and two between Cochin-Howrah, are already available. Due to lack of spare line capacity and other operational reasons, extension of any additional train to Trivandrum is not feasible at present.

Sports Projects Financed by Government

2890. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sports projects being financially assisted by Government during the last three years; year-wise and State-wise details thereof; and

(b) the financial assistance already rendered in each of these projects so far; State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) The number of sports infrastructure projects approved for Central financial assistance under the Scheme of grants to State Governments, State Sports Councils, Registered Organisations etc. during the last three years are as follows:—

Year	No. of Projects	Amount released
		Rs.
1984-85	283	1,46,90,800
1985-86	177	2,13,60,000
1986-87	598	14,79,16,325

Financial assistance provided year-wise and State-wise for the last three years is given at Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 101].

Kanchanjungha Express

2891. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to run the Kanchanjungha Express daily; and

(b) if so, by when and the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to run Kanchanjunga Express as a daily superfast train between Howrah and Guwahati from the next time table.